

# Ninigret

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

### Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

#### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)  
Senator Lincoln D. Chafee (R)  
Rep. James Langevin (D-2nd)

#### Contact

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#### Profile

Established:	1970
Current acres:	650
2002 volunteer hours:	2,800
2002 visitation:	35,000
Complex-wide:	
Staff:	8
FY 2002 budget	\$1,567,180

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge is one of five national wildlife refuges in the Rhode Island Complex.

#### Purpose

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge was established as an inviolate sanctuary, or for other purposes, for migratory birds, and for particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird program.

#### Public Use Notes

- Observation platform
- Four miles of nature trails
- Frequent guided walks/tours
- Wildlife/nature photography
- Waterfowl hunting
- Surf fishing

#### Management Activities

- Comprehensive Conservation Plan completed in spring 2002
- Land protection plan targets 500 acres for land acquisition
- Grassland/shrubland restoration
- Prescribed burning program
- Monitoring wildlife and habitat
- Controlling invasive exotic species
- Protecting the threatened piping plover
- New complex-wide \$2.6 million office and visitor center building in Charlestown scheduled to open in 2004

#### Highlights

The refuge has the statewide lead in the piping plover restoration program.

The refuge has an active and involved cadre of volunteers, and an award-winning Friends group.

The refuge enjoys strong partnerships with non-government organizations.

Foster Cove nature trail was restored in 2002 to meet accessibility standards.

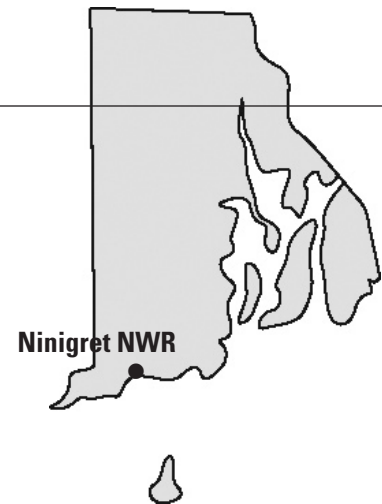
Refuge staff developed an interpretive plan with implementation in 2003.

The refuge is restoring over 75 acres of runways to early successional habitat.

The refuge offers an environmental education program for school-aged children.

An 80-acre wetland restoration is planned for 2004.

The refuge has an ongoing contaminant cleanup program.



#### Issues

High cost of land acquisition

Water quality is affected by multiple landowners

Increasing public use and demands on limited staff

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use areas

Managing incompatible public uses

Impacts from the adjacent town park

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

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